

Uruguay round and elsewhere is a process of getting the tariffs removed. So, you start by getting rid of the quotas and putting on a tariff with a schedule for the tariff to decline.

The President. That's what I wanted to say, but I was just kind of hung up on it. Thank you all very much.

Q. I just wanted to say thank you, and we appreciate your access to talk about agriculture for a few moments.

The President. Thank you all very much.

Note: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Agriculture Edward R. Madigan; Clayton Yeutter, chairman of the Republican Na-

tional Committee and former Secretary of Agriculture; U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills; Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas F. Brady; Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher; Herb Plambeck and Ronald Hays, former president and current president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union; Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic; Bill Mason, farm broadcaster at WGEL in Greenville, IL; President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico; Senator Robert Dole of Kansas; Michael LePorte, farm broadcaster at KRVN in Lexington, NE; and Michael J. Boskin, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Task Force on United States Government International Broadcasting

April 29, 1991

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide rely on U.S. Government broadcasting for objective world news, local news, explanations of U.S. policy, and information about democratic values and institutions, including free-market economics. In light of dramatic political developments worldwide, including the democratic revolution in Eastern Europe, the end of the cold war, and events in the Persian Gulf and Middle East, it is appropriate and timely to examine U.S. Government international broadcasting operations.

The President is pleased to announce the establishment of an independent, bipartisan Task Force on U.S. Government International Broadcasting to study the best future organization and structure for U.S. Government international broadcasting. The President is gratified that the enclosed list of distinguished Americans have agreed to serve.

The Task Force will make recommendations to the President within 6 months on the following issues in the overall context of U.S. foreign policy and public diplomacy:

—The most appropriate organization and structure under which all USG international broadcasting assets and activities eventually would be consolidated, in steps and over time, under a single U.S. Government broadcasting entity; when and how such consolidation should take place.

—New technologies in light of the need for U.S. Government broadcasting to remain effective and competitive. This should include strategies for the best use of new technologies.

—The relationship between U.S. Government broadcasting activities and U.S. private sector broadcasting enterprises in the international arena.

The President today announced that the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Task Force on U.S. Government International Broadcasting:

Chairman:

John Hughes, of Maine. Mr. Hughes is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and is currently a syndicated columnist for the Christian Science Monitor. In addition, Mr. Hughes has served as Director of the United States Information

Agency/Voice of America, 1982; and Associate Director of the United States Information Agency, 1981.

Members:

David Manker Abshire, of Virginia. Currently Dr. Abshire serves as president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Richard M. Fairbanks, III, of the District of Columbia. Since 1985 Mr. Fairbanks has served as a partner with the law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker in Washington, DC.

Richard Vincent Allen, of Maryland. Since 1982 Mr. Allen has served as president of the Richard V. Allen Co. in Washington, DC.

Viviane M. Warren, of California. Currently Ms. Warren serves as chairman of the Community Advisory Board for KPBS-TV/FM in San Diego, CA.

Rita Crocker Clements, of Texas. Ms. Clements is active in many community service volunteer activities and serves as chairman of the Tour-

ism Advisory Council of the Texas Department of Commerce in Dallas, TX.

Abbott McConnell Washburn, of the District of Columbia. Mr. Washburn served as a Commissioner with the Federal Communications Commission, 1974–1982, and currently serves as a director with Metro Mobile Cellular Telephone Service, Inc.

Ben J. Wattenberg, of the District of Columbia. Since 1981 Mr. Wattenberg has served as a syndicated columnist with the United Features Newspaper Enterprise Association; and has served as a senior fellow with the American Enterprise Institute, 1977 to present.

Rozanne LeJeanne Ridgway, of the District of Columbia. Currently Ms. Ridgway serves as the president of the Atlantic Council of United States in Washington, DC.

Stuart E. Eizenstat, of the District of Columbia. Currently Mr. Eizenstat serves as a partner with the law firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy in Washington, DC.

Margaret Noonan, of New York. Currently Ms. Noonan serves as a writer and journalist in New York, NY.

Remarks on Fast Track Authority Extension and an Exchange With Reporters

April 30, 1991

The President. Let me just thank the leaders for coming down here today to discuss the extension of Fast Track. And, as you all know, Fast Track means the ability to negotiate trade agreements. The export side of our economy has fueled our economic growth in recent years, and we need this Fast Track authority to negotiate trade agreements that will open markets, keep our exports strong, and create jobs and, frankly, sustain our leadership in the world economy. And I appreciate it.

I know some are undecided. I know many are strongly committed here. But I appreciate your coming down because this is priority and we are going all out. I'm grateful to the majority leader who is not with us today, but he's down in Mexico—I know last night, discussing this and whether—how it comes out, I don't know. But I think that kind of inquiry is very, very helpful. And I just want to thank you all for your

interest and hope that we can convince those—perhaps mostly out here today that this is the right thing for the United States. And I'm convinced it is, and I also think it's good for our neighbors to the south that I'm determined not to neglect, say nothing of Europe.

In any event, why, I appreciate your coming.

Interest Rates

Q. Will lowering the discount rate encourage lower interest rates worldwide, Mr. President?

The President. Lowering the discount rate—and the Fed just announced a half-point reduction to 5.5 percent from 6 percent, and this is good. This will stimulate our economy. I think it will help worldwide as well. It is very good news, and I think it will be well-received in this country. And I hope that it will have a strong effect inter-